



BOROUGH OF RADCLIFFE.

Mayor :


COUNCILLOR A. GREENHALGH, J.P.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1949.

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

W. S. HAYDOCK, B.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.



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Health Committee.

Chairman : ALDERMAN H. T. OGDEN, J.P.

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THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY-MAYOR (ex-officio).

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W. STANLEY HAYDOCK, B.A., M.D., D.P.H.

GEORGE YATES, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

WILFRED L. MONKS, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Clerk : MISS N. FLETCHER.

Town Hall, Radcliffe.

September, 1950.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough
of Radcliffe.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1949.

The health of the community has been satisfactory, and though there were rather more notified cases of Scarlet Fever than in recent years, the incidence of infectious diseases generally was low.

The efforts made during the past few years to immunise children against diphtheria have had excellent results and, for the first time, no confirmed cases of diphtheria were recorded.

Although fewer of the Health Services are now administered by the Borough, there are still many responsibilities connected with the control of matters liable to affect the health of the people, and one of these is the emission of black smoke.

Many amateur gardeners watched with interest the attempt by the Parks Department last winter to keep alive, out of doors, wallflower plants for spring flowering. Plants which can survive the cold, damp, and storms in districts much bleaker than ours were unable to cope with the pollution of the atmosphere in Radcliffe, and succumbed after a short struggle against the poisonous effect of the soot and acid in the air, and this is exactly the same air which we, who live in Radcliffe, are compelled to breathe every day. It is not surprising that there are so many people in the town suffering from chest complaints. I referred to this in my report for 1947, and now, two years later, conditions are as bad, if not worse than they were then. I know there are difficulties with regard to the quality of fuel and other matters, but the majority of firms in the town seem to be able to overcome these obstacles, whilst the minority continue to pollute the atmosphere with smoke and grit. I am certain a large part of the nuisance, which is the cause of much suffering and ill-health, could be prevented if these offenders made a real effort to do so.

Food poisoning is a question which has attracted much attention in recent years, and as it is a real menace and can be prevented, it is right that we should devote a good deal of

attention to it. There is room for considerable improvement in the preparation and handling of food. There is the danger of carelessness and non-observance of personal cleanliness on the part of those who do the actual cooking, and it is essential that in establishments where food is cooked and prepared, not only should ample facilities for washing the hands be easily available but they should be used conscientiously by the staff.

Many shops selling food in Radcliffe are badly designed, and the majority have neither the equipment nor fittings to ensure that food exposed for sale is adequately protected. Shop keepers allow too much liberty to the customers, and where hygiene is concerned the customer is certainly not always right. How often do we see purchasers handling or coughing over food and lifting shopping bags or baskets from the dirty floor and resting them on the clean counter. Dogs seem to wander uncontrolled round many shops. It is not unusual, too, to see assistants blowing out paper bags or licking a finger to pick up the wrapping paper more easily. There is too much handling of food, especially bread and confectionery, and it would be just as easy and much safer if servers were used instead of lifting the food with the hands.

Although many houses have been erected, the housing situation from the point of view of the Health Department is no better than before. Overcrowding persists, unfit houses are occupied, tuberculosis cases are still living under unsatisfactory conditions, and families whose claims are greatest are, unfortunately, often less acceptable as tenants for Council houses, than others whose need is less.

The tables in the report show the position with regard to Vital Statistics, infectious diseases, and other sanitary matters. If they are compared with those of previous years it will be seen that progress is being made, even though circumstances over which we have no control, are such, that it is impossible to move as rapidly as we would like.

Though there is room for improvement, I think Radcliffe on the whole compares favourably with other similarly situated towns, and judging by the immigrants who, from time to time come and settle here, the average parents in Radcliffe appear to have as great, if not greater sense of responsibility regarding the care and welfare of their children, than parents in most other industrial towns.

In submitting this report I take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Council in general, and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, for their support and encouragement.

I also desire to record my appreciation of the good work done by the members of the staff of the Health Department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. S. HAYDOCK.

Borough of Radcliffe.

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A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	4,915
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population, 1949	27,680
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Book	9,206
Rateable Value	£161,029
Sum represented by a penny rate	£637

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	231	203	434
Illegitimate	8	7	15
	<u>239</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>449</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16.2		
Still Births	8	4	12
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	26		
Deaths	191	193	384
Crude death rate per 1,000 of resident population	13.9		
Deaths from puerperal causes :—	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.	
Other Maternal Cases	1	2.17	

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	42
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	60
„ Measles (all ages)	Nil.
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

Deaths according to Wards :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ainsworth	13	15	28
Black Lane	46	66	112
Radcliffe Bridge	34	31	65
Radcliffe Hall	40	33	73
Stand Lane	58	48	106
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	191	193	384
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Mean Rates for the past 30 years :—

Mean Rate of 5 years	Per 1000 of Population				Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births	Rate of Death under 1 year to 1000 Births
	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuber- culosis of Res- piratory System	Death Rate from Cancer		
Mean Rates for the past 30 years :—						
1915 to 1919	15.2	16.6	0.97	not	4.1	113
1920 to 1924	17.9	13.4	0.66	available	3.5	94
1925 to 1929	13.4	13.3	0.56	„	4.9	60
1930 to 1934	13.2	13.1	0.66	1.53	2.96	51
1935 to 1939	12.5	13.7	0.42	1.89	4.7	58.7
1940 to 1944	15.6	14.4	0.34	1.93	2.9	51.7
1945	17.1	14.8	0.25	2.28	Nil.	55
1946	18.1	13.2	0.11	2.34	Nil.	43
1947	20.9	14.6	0.29	2.70	Nil.	34
1948	16.4	14.2	0.14	1.80	Nil.	43
1949	16.2	13.9	0.33	2.17	2.23	42

The causes of death are as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2
Syphilitic Diseases	2
Influenza	3
Cancer	60
Diabetes	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	33
Heart Disease	145
Other Circulatory Diseases	21
Bronchitis	31
Pneumonia	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	2
Peptic Ulcer	1
Diarrhoea	2
Appendicitis	1
Other Digestive Diseases	6
Nephritis	6
Other Maternal Causes	1
Premature Birth	6
Other Infant Deaths	7
Suicide	4
Accidents	2
Other Violent Causes	8
All other causes	23
	<hr/>
	384

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Specimens are sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Mopsall Hospital.

The number of specimens examined and the results are as follows :—

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Swabs from suspected Diphtheria cases and contacts	20	Nil.	20
Milk for presence of Tuberculosis	10	Nil.	10
Other specimens	2	1	1

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**Water Supply.**

The water supply for the greater part of the area is under the control of the Irwell Valley Water Board. Regular bacteriological and chemical examinations were carried out at the Board Laboratory, and the results were satisfactory.

All waters are chlorinated, and waters liable to have plumbo-solvent properties are lime treated. The Board, too, insist on tin lined pipes for domestic fittings, so there is no danger from plumbo-solvent action.

The Ainsworth district is supplied by the Bolton Corporation.

There are only 10 dwelling-houses—all in outlying districts—not on the main supply, and there are no houses dependent on stand pipes.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The following tabular summary of the work of the Sanitary Department has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926:

(a) Number of inspections made during the year:—

Inspections of houses, etc., including re-inspections	1467
Number of cases of infectious diseases reported upon	82
Number of houses disinfected	110
Number of drains tested (by smoke)	8
Number of samples of milk obtained for bacteriological examinations	10

(b) Number of Notices served:—

(1) Informal Notices	292
(2) Statutory Notices	15

(c) Compliance with Statutory Notices:—

All the Statutory Notices were complied with.

Seventeen houses were found to be infested with bugs, and were suitably dealt with.

The preparations used were Zaldecide, Vermicine, Furmex, and D.D.T. All the work was carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Financial assistance has been given for the conversion of privies to fresh water closets since 1921, and a corresponding grant was sanctioned in May, 1938, for the conversion of waste water closets. All the privies and pail closets that were within access to sewers and the main water supply had been dealt with before the outbreak of war, and steady progress was being made with the waste water closets when war brought this work to a standstill.

The following table shows the closet and ashpit accommodation at the end of 1920, also at the end of each of the past five years, and demonstrates the conversions and additions made since the scheme came into operation in October, 1921.

	*1920	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Privies	1883	180	180	180	176	172
Pail Closets	260	241	236	236	236	228
Fresh Water Closets	2635	8359	8448	8538	8583	8671
Waste Water Closets	1642	1166	1146	1115	1074	1050
Wet Ashpits	1011	122	122	122	120	118
Dry Ashpits	909	294	292	292	288	285
Ashbins	1849	8291	8357	8416	8457	8523

* The figures for 1920 do not include the districts of Out-wood and Ainsworth, which were added to the Borough in 1933.

HOUSING.

Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(i) By the Local Authority	56
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil.
(iii) By other bodies and persons	8

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	411
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	631
(ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932	6
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	13
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	292

2. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers

231

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil.
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.
- (iii) No. of dwelling-houses demolished 8

The problem of the rapid deterioration of the sub-standard house is still with us, and this class of house will have to be dealt with in the very near future. The rapid building of new houses appears to be the only solution.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	19	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	190	84	—	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)			—	—
TOTAL	215	104	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found :

PARTICULARS.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Re-medied.	To H.M. In-spector.	By H.M. In-spector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	6	6	—	4	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	38	38	—	31	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	45	45	—	35	—

Outworkers.**Section 110.**

Number of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	6
Nature of work carried out by out-workers—Making of Wearing Apparel	6
Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Nil.
Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Nil.

Section 111.

Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Nil.
Notices served	Nil.
Prosecutions	Nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The war-time measure of centralised killing has resulted in the cessation of the use of the local slaughter-houses, all the meat coming from Bury. There is, however, constant supervision over milk, meat, and other foods, and generally speaking these are satisfactory.

At the end of 1949 there were on the register 62 dairymen or purveyors of milk.

The following licences have been issued :—

Retail distributor of Pasteurised milk	6
Supplementary licence for Pasteurised milk	2
Retail distributor of Tuberculin Tested milk	6
Supplementary licence for Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk	1
Dealers licence for Sterilised milk	63
Supplementary licence for Sterilised milk	1

On the 30th September when the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries took over the inspection of farms there were :—

No. of dairy farms	40 with 934 cows.
No. of cowkeepers	40
No. of inspections made	89

Many grave doubts exist as to the wisdom of taking away from Local Authorities the inspection of farms, as the local inspector is always on the spot, as against the "remote control" apparently envisaged under the new scheme.

The following table shows the amount of food examined and dealt with :—

Class of food	No. of tins, bottles or jars.	Weight			
		cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Meats	185	1	3	2	13
Soups	69	—	2	4	—
Fish	69	—	1	13	6
Vegetables	229	3	1	10	7
Jams and Marmalade	22	—	1	7	—
Milk	305	2	1	20	2
Fruit	110	2	—	12	9
Cooking fat	9	—	4	17	—
Miscellaneous	53	—	—	17	13
Fish (wet)	—	—	—	19	—
Cereals	—	—	—	5	8
Dutch Bakery Cream	—	—	2	—	—
Black Puddings	—	—	2	10	—
Sausages	—	1	—	25	—
Ham	—	—	—	14	—
Butter	—	—	—	11	8
Cheese	—	—	1	5	12
Flour	—	22	—	15	—
Custard Powder	—	—	—	9	—
Soyghetti	—	—	—	22	—
Semolina	—	—	—	17	—
Slab Cake	—	—	—	27	—
Marron Glaces	—	—	3	2	6
Almonds	—	4	—	27	—
Angelica	—	—	3	4	—
Melons Confits	—	5	3	16	—
Eggs	12 doz.	—	—	—	—
Milk	10 qts.	—	—	—	—
		49	2	27	4

Rodent Control.

The rodent operative has been fully engaged during the year and much good work has been done.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :—

Visits made to premises	632
Pre-bait laid	2572 ozs.
Poison bait laid	2021 ozs.
Poison bait taken	433 ozs.

This gives an approximate kill of 831 rats and 317 mice.

In addition to this the whole of the sewers were treated twice, 679 manholes being examined each time.

Pre-bait laid	3062 ozs.
Poison bait laid	840 ozs.
Poison bait taken	246 ozs.

This gives a kill of approximately 615 rats.

During the year, all Authorities through whose areas the river Irwell flows decided to treat the banks of the river simultaneously. The particulars of the treatment in this area are as follows :—

Pre-bait laid	1660 ozs.
Poison bait laid	720 ozs.
Poison bait taken	397 ozs.

This gives a kill of approximately 992 rats.

There is a free service to private dwellings, but a charge is made for treating business premises.

When this is considered against the cost of damage done by the rodents, especially to food, the cost becomes negligible. Owners and occupiers of premises would be well advised to take advantage of this excellent service.

Disinfection.

The number of houses disinfected is given in a previous table.

The Steam Disinfector at the Sewage Works has been of great advantage, and the following articles were treated :—

Beds or mattresses	....	....	....	11
Pillows	....	....	....	16
Blankets and sheets	....	....	....	19
Furniture	....	....	....	1
Clothing	....	....	....	—
Miscellaneous articles	....	....	....	—

D. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious diseases was low.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified in 1949 and for the preceding four years :—

Disease	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Scarlet Fever	73	28	17	43	80
Diphtheria	20	8	4	2	—
Typhoid Group	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	374	36	293	345	189
Whooping Cough	65	50	61	69	78
Pneumonia	49	31	19	13	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	3	3	2	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	5	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	3	2	2
Erysipelas	11	6	4	13	6
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17	5	9	16	15
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	10	7	8	4

Infectious Diseases According to Wards.

Disease	Ainsworth	Black Lane	Radcliffe Bridge	Radcliffe Hall	Stand Lane	Total
Scarlet Fever	12	20	10	17	21	80
Typhoid Group	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles	35	77	29	9	39	189
Whooping Cough	8	11	10	17	32	78
Pneumonia	2	8	4	7	3	24
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	3	4
Erysipelas	—	1	—	2	3	6
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	1
	58	120	53	52	102	385

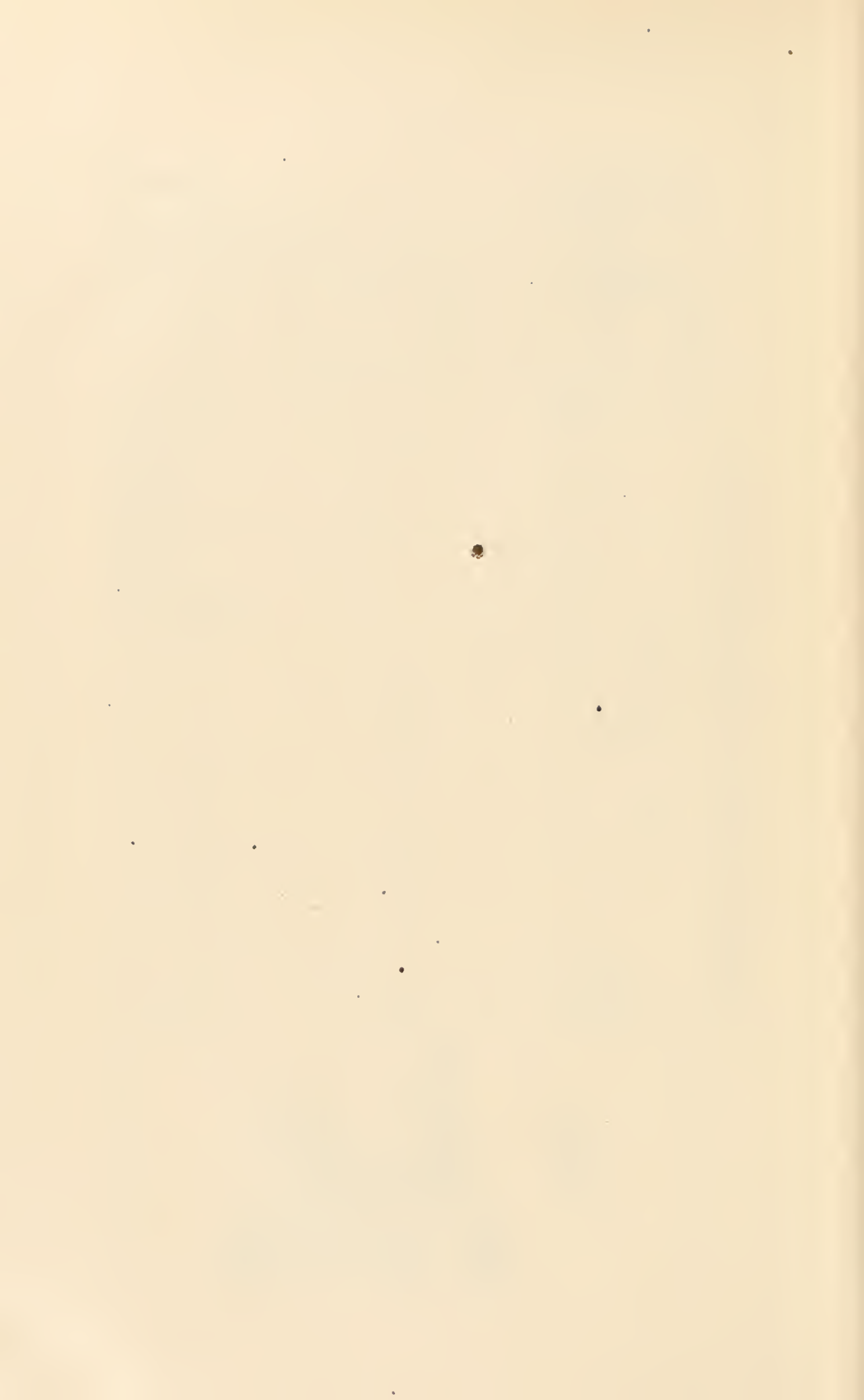
Tuberculosis.

The following Table shows the number of new cases and deaths recorded during the year:—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years.								
0-1 .. . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-5 .. . . .	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
5-10 .. . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10-15 .. . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
15-20 .. . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
20-25	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
25-35	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..
35-45	3	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
45-55	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
55-65	2	1	..	..	2	1	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	11	4	4	0	5	3	0	1
	15		4		8		1	
	19				9			

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1949

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED												Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District	Total Cases Remov'd to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all Ages	Years										65 and over			
		Un-der 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45		45-65		
Smallpox	80	2	2	5	11	46	11	2	1				74		
Scarlet Fever															
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1												1		
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	189	14	22	25	31	58	4	1	1			1	2		
Measles, (excluding Rubella)	78	6	9	16	13	18						1	1		
Whooping Cough															
Acute Pneumonia	24	1	2	1	3	1			3			8	6	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	4								3		1		4		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever															
Acute Poliomyelitis	1				1								1		
Acute Polio-Encephalitis															
Encephalitis Lethargica															
Dysentery															
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2											1		
Erysipelas	6				1						1	1	4		
Malaria															
	385	23	35	51	47	60	123	15	2	8	3	10	8	94	1



Radcliffe Printing Co.